

REMARKS

Claims 1-58 are pending in this application. The Examiner has allowed claims 38-45, rejected claims 1-13, 17, 25, 27-36, and 46-55, and objected to claims 14-16, 18-24, 26, and 37. Claim 56 has been withdrawn from consideration. Applicant has canceled claims 1, 28, 46-55, 57 and 58 from the present application, without prejudice. The Amendments made in this response place the claims in condition for allowance.

Applicant reserves the right to pursue the currently rejected claims in a subsequent application.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because the D_{in} lines of Figure 2, lines 23 and 33, have been mistakenly labeled D_{out} . Applicant has amended Figure 2 to re-label lines 23 and 33 correctly. A replacement set of drawings is attached as Appendix A.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 38-45 are allowed. Further, claims 14-16, 18-24, 26, and 37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, "but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Applicants have amended claims 14, 18, 26, and 37 to be independent claims that include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 15-16 depend from claim 14 and therefore are allowable for at least the same reasons as is claim 14. Claims 19-24 depend from claim 18 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as is claim 18. Therefore, as amended in this response, claims 14-16, 18-24, 26, and 37 are now allowable.

Rejected Claims

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-13, 17, 25, 27-36, 46-55, 57, and 58. Claims 1, 28, 46-55, and 58 have been canceled. Claims 2-13, 17, and 25 have been amended to depend from claim 14 and therefore are now allowable for at least the same reasons as is Claim 14. Claim 27 has been amended to depend from claim 26 and therefore is allowable for at least the same reasons as is claim 26. Claims 29-36 have been amended to depend from claim 37 and therefore are allowable for at least the same reasons as is claim 37. Therefore, claims 2-13, 17, 25, 27, and 29-36 have been amended to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have amended the claims so that claims 2-27 and 29-45 are in condition for allowance. The remaining pending claims, claims 1, 28, 46-55, 57, and 58 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the current amendments and timely issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 2-27 and 29-45. If the Examiner contemplates a different action, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative by phone at 650-849-6622 or by e-mail at gary.edwards@finnegan.com.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 9, 2004

By: 

Gary J. Edwards
Reg. No. 41,008

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